

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

PROPERTY NAME: M. Slaughter Farm
ADDRESS: 11251 Downes Station Road, Ridgely, MD 21660-1802
OWNER: Rose S. Wood
TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 27
PROJECT: MD 404 from US Route 50 to Denton Bypass
SITE VISIT BY: Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.
NAME: Wendy Zug-Gilbert

INVENTORY NO. CAR-347
TAX MAP NUMBER: 27
AGENCY: MD SHA
DATE: July 2001

ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDED

ELIGIBILITY NOT RECOMMENDED X

CRITERIA: A; B; C; D
CONSIDERATIONS: A; B; C; D; E; F; G; NONE

IS PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES; X NO
IS DISTRICT LISTED? YES; NO
NAME OF DISTRICT:

DOCUMENTATION ON THE PROPERTY/DISTRICT IS PRESENTED IN:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION:

Summary Description:

The M. Slaughter Farm is located at the northeast corner of Shore Highway (MD Route 404) and Downes Station Road, west of Denton, Caroline County in Maryland's Eastern Shore. The 194-acre farm consists of a nineteenth-century farmhouse, a modern residence, and outbuildings (barn with attached calf house, milkhouse, two poultry houses, and two equipment sheds) that date to the mid-twentieth century. The farm is linear in form with the historic residence at the eastern end and the agricultural outbuildings lined up along the north side of the farm lane. A modern residence, built in 1957 to replace the earlier house, is to the west of the farm buildings. The historic farmhouse is a nineteenth-century, two-and-a-half-story, frame dwelling that was constructed in two phases. The eastern section was the farm's original dwelling and probably dates to the early nineteenth century. It is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay frame structure built in a hall-and-parlor plan with two gabled dormers. The later portion, dating to the mid-nineteenth century, is a larger two-and-a-half-story, three bay frame structure built onto the original farmhouse's western gable end.

Significance:

The M. Slaughter Farm does not retain sufficient architectural and historical integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criterion. Although the original farmhouse is still standing and is architecturally interesting, the addition of modern materials to its exterior and the slightly changed fenestration (on the building's western and rear elevations) have altered its historic appearance and integrity. The farm buildings date to the mid-twentieth century and are not contemporaneous with the nineteenth-century farmhouse. The construction of the new farmhouse in 1957 left the original dwelling vacant and neglected. Historically a dairy farm until the 1960s, the property is currently farmed by tenants.

PREPARED BY: Wendy Zug-Gilbert, Principal Investigator, Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.

Maryland Historical Trust Review

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended: X

Criteria: A; B; C; D **Considerations:** A; B; C; D; E; F; G; None

Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR program

Date

✓-entered

**CAROLINE COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET**

SURVEY No.: CAR-347

NAME: M. Slaughter Farm

LOCATION: 11251 Downes Station Road, west of Denton

DATE: 1820-1950

ACCESS: Private

DESCRIPTION:

The M. Slaughter Farm is located at the northeast corner of Shore Highway (MD Route 404) and Downes Station Road, west of Denton, Caroline County in Maryland's Eastern Shore. The 194-acre farm consists of a nineteenth-century farmhouse, a modern residence, and outbuildings (barn with attached calf house, milkhouse, two poultry houses, and two equipment sheds) that date to the mid-twentieth century. The farm is linear in form with the historic residence at the eastern end and the agricultural outbuildings lined up along the north side of the farm lane. A modern residence, built in 1957 to replace the earlier house, is to the west of the farm buildings. The historic farmhouse is a nineteenth-century, two-and-a-half-story, frame dwelling that was constructed in two phases. The eastern section was the farm's original dwelling and probably dates to the early nineteenth century. It is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay frame structure built in a hall-and-parlor plan with two gabled dormers. The later portion, dating to the mid-nineteenth century, is a larger two-and-a-half-story, three bay frame structure built onto the original farmhouse's western gable end.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The M. Slaughter Farm does not retain sufficient architectural and historical integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criterion. Although the original farmhouse is still standing and is architecturally interesting, the addition of modern materials to its exterior and the slightly changed fenestration (on the building's western and rear elevations) have altered its historic appearance and integrity. The farm buildings date to the mid-twentieth century and are not contemporaneous with the nineteenth-century farmhouse. The construction of the new farmhouse in 1957 left the original dwelling vacant and neglected. Historically a dairy farm until the 1960s, the property is currently farmed by tenants.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CAR-347

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| historic | M. Slaughter Farm (preferred) |
| other | Wood Farm |

2. Location

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| street and number | 11251 Downes Station Road | n/a | not for publication |
| city, town | Ridgely | X | vicinity |
| county | Caroline | | |

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| name | Rose S. Wood | | |
| street and number | 11251 Downes Station Road | telephone | n/a |
| city, town | Ridgely | state | MD zip code 21660-1802 |

4. Location of Legal Description

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. | Caroline County Courthouse | tax map and parcel | 27-37 |
| city, town | Denton | liber | 154 folio 699 |

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District

☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District

☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER

☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT

☐ Other:

6. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Current Function | | Resource Count | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | 8 | 1 buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> defense | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | | sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic | <input type="checkbox"/> social | | structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | objects |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | | Total |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> health care | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | | |
| | | | | Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory | |
| | | | | 0 | |

7. Description

Inventory No. **CAR-347**

Condition

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The M. Slaughter Farm is located at the northeast corner of Shore Highway (MD Route 404) and Downes Station Road, west of Denton, Caroline County in Maryland's Eastern Shore. The 194-acre farm consists of an historic farmhouse, a modern residence, a barn with attached calf house, a milkhouse, two poultry houses, and two equipment sheds. The farm is linear in form with the historic residence at the eastern end and the agricultural outbuildings lined up along the north side of the farm lane. At the western end of this line of buildings is the property's modern residence, which was built in 1957 to replace the earlier house.

The historic farmhouse on the M. Slaughter Farm is a mid-nineteenth-century, two-and-a-half-story, frame dwelling that was constructed in two phases. The earliest section of the building is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay structure that was the farm's original residence. This early nineteenth-century structure was built in a hall-and-parlor plan. Features include two gabled dormers, a brick interior chimney, and a combination of original six-over-six and replacement one-over-one sash windows. An historic shed-roof frame addition on its eastern gable end functioned as a garage. The later two-and-a-half-story section was built onto the western gable end of the original house. This three-bay frame structure is two rooms in depth, has a shed-roof front porch with simple turned posts, two interior brick end chimneys, a six-panel door with three-pane transom, and a combination of original six-over-six and replacement one-over-one sash windows. Both sections of the house sit on a brick foundation, have an asphalt-shingle roof, and are covered with asbestos siding with vinyl shutters.

Directly to the west of the historic farmhouse are the two equipment sheds. The larger of the two is a concrete block structure with a metal roof and wooden planks in the gable ends. It dates to the 1940s. The smaller shed, which is older, is located at the larger shed's eastern gable end and has vertical plank siding and wooden shakes on its gabled roof.

The barn also dates to the 1940s and is a concrete-block and frame structure with a wooden shake-covered gambrel roof. A long one-story calf house is attached to its eastern side wall. This structure has metal siding and a metal roof. Off the southern elevation of the calf house is a small gable-roof milkhouse. This structure is built of concrete block, has a metal roof, and brick sills at the window openings.

To the west of the barn are two low, long poultry houses. These buildings have metal siding and metal roofs.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CAR-347

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------|
| Specific dates | unknown | Architect/Builder | unknown |
| Construction dates | 1820-1950 | | |

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Significance

The M. Slaughter Farm does not retain sufficient architectural and historical integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criterion. Although the original farmhouse is still standing and is architecturally interesting, the addition of modern materials to its exterior and the slightly changed fenestration (on the building's western and rear elevations) have altered its historic appearance and integrity. The farm buildings date to the mid-twentieth century and are not contemporaneous with the nineteenth-century farmhouse. The construction of the new farmhouse in 1957 left the original dwelling vacant and neglected. Historically a dairy farm until the 1960s, the property is currently farmed by tenants.

Historic Narrative

The M. Slaughter Farm was initially settled in the early nineteenth century. During this period, the Eastern Shore of Maryland was an important agricultural area producing crops for marketplaces in Annapolis, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. By this time, the tobacco-based economy that dominated the Chesapeake area during the early eighteenth century had given way to one based on the production of feed grains (Lanier & Herman 1997:178). Indian corn, wheat, oats, and rye were the primary grains grown in Caroline County. Other important crops during this period included Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, hay, and orchard produce. Wool and butter were also produced. It is not known who originally settled the M. Slaughter Farm, however, the earliest component of the house suggests settlement may have occurred as early as the turn of the nineteenth century. From this period up through the Civil War, it is reasonable to believe that the farm produced many of the area's primary crops, such as those mentioned above.

Agricultural diversification followed the Civil War, and was characterized by the industrialization of agriculture, the beginning of mechanized farming, and the emergence of strong regional urban markets (Lanier & Herman 1997:178). In addition, the extension of the Maryland & Delaware Railroad to neighboring Hillsboro in 1868 provided high-speed transit for formerly untransportable produce. Produce such as berries, cherries, peaches, and perishable vegetables as well as small game and animals including partridges, wild duck, geese, rabbits, and poultry could be shipped farther and faster (Preston 1983:234). Eggs and oysters were other major products. In 1875, M. Slaughter owned the farm (Isler 1875). By that time, the two-and-a-half-story, three-bay portion of the dwelling had been built onto the western gable end of the earlier house.

In 1896, a second railroad was constructed through the area (Hayman 1979:118). The Queen Annes Railroad was the last major railroad to be built on the Eastern Shore. It was constructed as an east-west line to service the agriculturally productive region in the upper Eastern Shore. This railroad ran along the north side of Queen Anne Highway between Wye Mills and Queen Anne following the northern boundary of the M. Slaughter Farm. A station was established across the Ridgely to Bridgetown road (now MD 312) from the farm. This line serviced the growing number of canneries in this portion of the Eastern Shore region.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many canneries were established in the area. Canneries were important commercial enterprises on the Eastern Shore, often backed by big-city businesses, but sometime operated by small local businesses. The area's fertile land, multiple farms, and un-unionized labor created the perfect climate for massive farm production. Caroline

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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M. Slaughter Farm Continuation Sheet

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Historic Narrative (continued)

County canneries packed peaches, peas, tomatoes, and corn (Burton 1986:36). Technological advancements in food preservation and the manufacture of cans fueled the county's canning industries around the turn of the twentieth century. Many small towns had their own cannery with produce provided by the local farms. During this period, the M. Slaughter Farm was owned by Mrs. K. Downes (Saulsbury 1897). It is conceivable that during the early twentieth century, the farm grew produce for the cannery at Downes. This cannery was located near the railroad station next to the farm. Production of canneries peaked in 1920 with subsequent decline during the mid- and latter twentieth century.

Also by this early twentieth century period, significant changes in farming practices ushered in a new period of agriculture. The use of engine-driven trucks and tractors, the importance of hygienic farming standards, and the expansion of truck farming became important trends. The fact that none of the outbuildings associated with the farm's earlier occupation are extant may indicate the growing trend of the period to reuse materials from earlier buildings to construct the newer, more task-specific buildings necessary for twentieth-century agricultural practices.

The M. Slaughter Farm was historically a dairy farm and continued to function as such through the 1960s. The current owners purchased the property circa 1940. Later that decade they replaced the earlier dairy barn with the current arched-roof structure. The attached calf house, milkhouse, and the larger of the two equipment sheds date to this period. The poultry houses also date to the period, following the 1950s trend of the Eastern Shore toward a large poultry industry (Callcott 1985:10). These structures have foundations built of concrete-block, which gained popularity as a building material just before the mid-twentieth century. In 1957, a modern residence was constructed on the farm, replacing the original farmhouse. The property was transformed into a horse breeding and training farm in the latter part of the 1960s, after dairy farming ended. A horse track was built to the east of the farm buildings. Currently, the owner lives in the modern residence and the property is tenant farmed. The original farmhouse stands vacant and deteriorating as do the equipment sheds and poultry houses.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CAR-347

Burton, R. Lee, Jr.
1986 Canneries of the Eastern Shore. Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, Maryland.

Calcott, George H.
1985 Maryland and America, 1940 to 1980. The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore.

Caroline County Tax Assessment Records and Tax Maps. Located at Caroline County Courthouse, Denton, MD.

10. Geographical Data

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Acreage of surveyed property | 194 acres | |
| Acreage of historical setting | 194 acres | |
| Quadrangle name | Ridgely, MD (1973) | Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 |

Verbal boundary description and justification

n/a

11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| name/title | Wendy Zug-Gilbert / Principal Investigator | | |
| organization | Archeaological & Historical Consultants, Inc. | date | July 2001 |
| street & number | 101 N. Pennsylvania Ave., PO Box 482 | telephone | (814) 364-2135 |
| city or town | Centre Hall | state | PA |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CAR-347

M. Slaughter Farm Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Hayman, John C.

1979 *Rails Along the Chesapeake – A History of Railroading on the Delmarva Peninsula, 1827-1978*. Marvadel Publishers, unknown location.

Isler, John B.

1875 *Map of Caroline County, Maryland*.

Lanier, Gabrielle M. & Bernard L. Herman

1997 *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Preston, Dickinson J.

1983 *Talbot County: A History*. Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, MD.

Saulsbury, M. L.

1897 *Map of Caroline County, Maryland*. Drafted by M. L. Saulsbury, Civil Engineer, Ridgely, Maryland. Traced and copied by George Herbert Foster, Denton, Maryland, 1969.

United States Geologic Survey (USGS)

1973 *Ridgely, Maryland Quadrangle*. 7.5-minute series.

1905 *Denton, Maryland Quadrangle*. 15-minute series.

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000: THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

I. GEOGRAPHIC REGION:

- X EASTERN SHORE (ALL EASTERN SHORE COUNTIES AND CECIL)**
- WESTERN SHORE (ANNE ARUNDEL, CALVERT, CHARLES, PRINCE GEORGE'S, ST. MARY'S)**
- PIEDMONT (BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE, CARROLL, FREDERICK, HARFORD,, HOWARD,
MONTGOMERY)**
- WESTERN MARYLAND (ALLEGANY, GARRETT, WASHINGTON)**

II. CHRONOLOGICAL/DEVELOPMENTAL PERIODS:

- X RURAL AGRARIAN INTENSIFICATION (A.D. 1680-1815)**
- X AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION (A.D. 1815-1870)**
- X INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE (A.D. 1870-1930)**
- MODERN PERIOD (A.D. 1930-PRESENT)**
- UNKNOWN PERIOD (PREHISTORIC; HISTORIC)**

III. HISTORIC PERIOD THEMES:

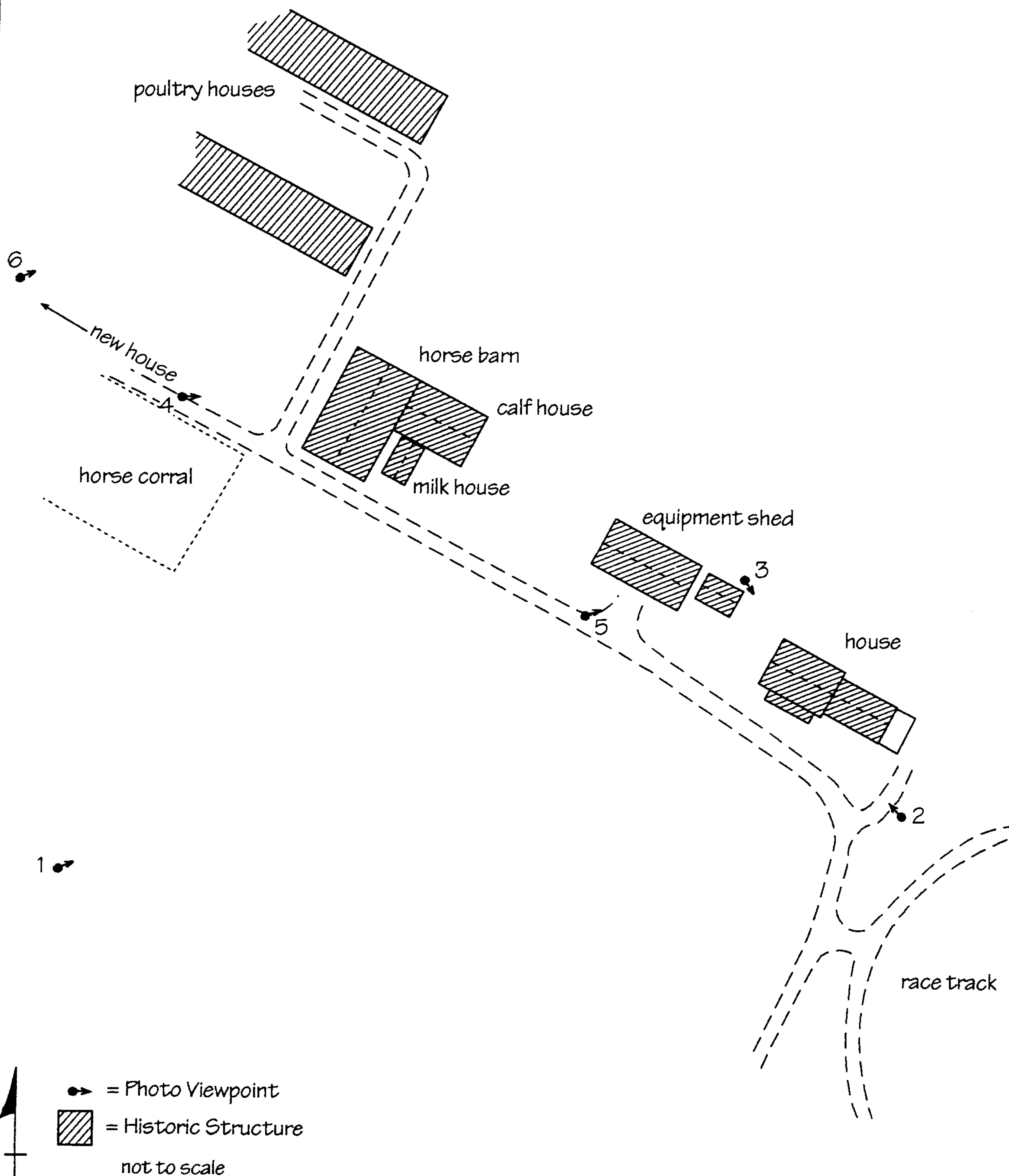
- X AGRICULTURE**
- X ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, ARCHITECTURE, AND COMMUNITY PLANNING**
- ECONOMIC (COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL)**
- GOVERNMENT/LAW**
- MILITARY**
- RELIGION**
- SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL**
- TRANSPORTATION**

IV. RESOURCE TYPE:

CATEGORY: farm
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: rural
HISTORIC FUNCTION(S) AND USE(S): farm
KNOWN DESIGN SOURCE: none

M. Slaughter Farm (CAR-347)

Ridgely Vicinity
Caroline County, Maryland
Resource Sketch Map

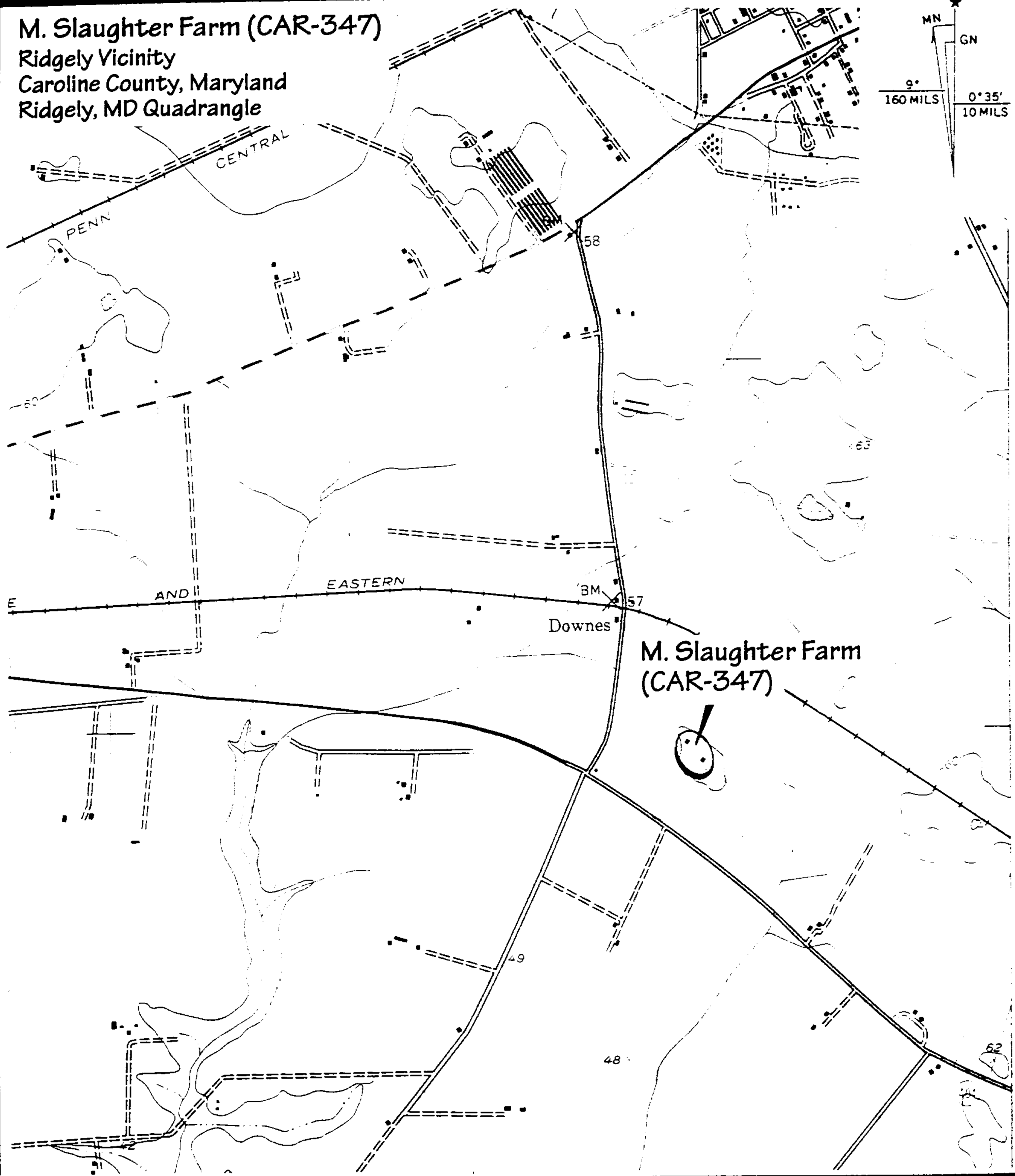


M. Slaughter Farm (CAR-347)

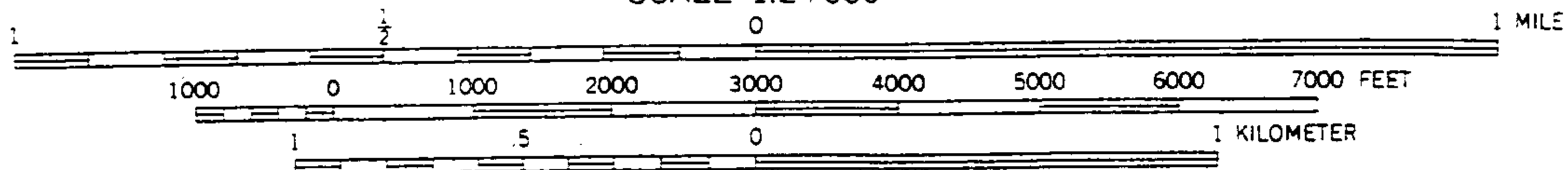
Ridgely Vicinity

Caroline County, Maryland

Ridgely, MD Quadrangle



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



CAR-347
M. Slaughter Farm
Caroline County, Maryland
Wendy Zug-Gilbert
July 2001
MD SHPO

Overview of M. Slaughter Farm, facing northeast.
1 of 6



CAR-347
M. Slaughter Farm
Caroline County, Maryland
Wendy Zug-Gilbert
July 2001
MD SHPO

Farmhouse facade, facing northwest. Note 1 1/2 story section
on east elevation was farms original dwelling.
2 of 6



CAR-347

M. Slaughter Farm

Caroline County, Maryland

Wendy Zug-Gilbert

July 2001

MD SHPO

Farmhouse, rear & west elevations, facing southeast.

3 of 6



CAR-347

M. Slaughter Farm

Caroline County, Maryland

Rita Suffness

June 2001

MD SHPO

Barn, west elevation, facing east

4 of 6



CAR-347

M. Slaughter Farm

Caroline County, Maryland

Wendy Zug-Gilbert

July 2001

MD SHPO

Equipment shed, facing west.

5 of 6



CAR-347

M. Slaughter Farm

Caroline County, Maryland

Wendy Zug-Gilbert

July 2001

MD SHPO

Poultry houses, facing northeast.

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